

Okolona Messenger.

FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE SUNNY SOUTH.

VOL. 35, NO. 51

WEDNESDAY DEC. 18, 1907

RIVERS AND HARBORS CONGRESS.



DECIDEDLY the most important meeting for the general interests of the United States was the three days meeting of the Rivers and Harbors congress in Washington December 5, 6 and 7. The sentiment favoring the internal improvements of the rivers on the continent has been rapidly growing of late, and this meeting fairly brought the question before the people. Two thousand delegates from thirty-six states in the Union were in attendance, and the proceedings throughout gave every evidence of determination and legitimate purpose. The congress was addressed by distinguished men from various sections, and in all was one of the most notable gatherings direct from the people ever held in the United States.

A memorial was unanimously adopted recommending the improvement of the waterways of the country, to the President of the United States, the Vice President, and the Speaker of the House. The resolutions, unanimously adopted, recommended an annual appropriation of not less than \$50,000,000 for the improvement of the waterways, the issuance of bonds, if necessary, and the adoption of a wise and liberal waterway policy by the government.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

J. Hampton Moore, of Philadelphia, chairman of the committee on resolutions, presented the platform of the association as the unanimous sentiment of thirty-six states, and he said that the committee requested the approval of the report in the hope that it would receive the respectful consideration of the national congress.

The report set forth that the American people had replied to the resolutions adopted by the rivers and harbors convention last year by sending to this convention nearly 2,000 delegates from thirty-six states and territories. Calling attention to the inability of the railroads to handle the business that is offered them, and stating that profitable and successful commerce is absolutely dependent upon economical transportation of commodities, it is pointed out in the report that other means of transportation should be provided at once.

Continuing, the report of the committee states that transportation by water is much cheaper and usually quicker than by rail, and that relief of the congestion on the railroads is offered by the improvement of the water courses of the country. The report states further that it is the belief of the delegates that the time has come for the government to adopt a more liberal and persistent policy for the improvement of the waterways over which it rightfully has control. In conclusion, the report offers the following resolutions by the national rivers and harbors congress, "standing for a policy and not a project."

First—That we earnestly urge the adoption by the Federal government of a wise, liberal, and comprehensive waterway policy that will provide for the proper improvement within the next ten years, of the rivers, waterways and harbors of our country, justified by the present prospective benefits to commerce.

Second—That this congress strongly urges upon the Congress of the United States the importance of the immediate adoption of a comprehensive plan of waterway improvement, of the carrying on of the work by an adequate number of engineers, and of such liberal appropriations annually as will insure the early completion of the undertaking.

Third—That we cordially indorse the action of President Roosevelt in appointing a special inland waterways commission and further recommend that Congress enact such laws as will make the inland waterways commission permanent, and will provide it with necessary authority for its investigations and recommendations.

Fourth—That this congress cordially thanks President Roosevelt for the support he has given to its purposes, by his speeches and by his treatment of the subject in his recent message to Congress.

ASKS \$50,000,000 ANNUALLY.

Fifth—That we ask Congress to view the river, waterway, and harbor appropriations not as the appropriation of money for the current expenses of government, but as an investment in permanent improvements, bound to pay increasing dividends from year to year. Viewing these appropriations in this light, Congress is fully warranted in authorizing an annual expenditure, beginning at the present session, of not less than \$50,000,000, and in providing for the same, if in excess of funds available, by a bond issue similar in character to that for the building the Panama Canal.

The report of the committee on nominations recommends the election of these officers and members of the board of directors:

For president, Joseph E. Ransdell, of Louisiana; for secretary-treasurer, J. F. Ellison, Cincinnati.

Directors:

Atlantic Seaboard—William H. Lincoln, Boston; Olin J. Stephens, New York; J. Hampton Moore, Philadelphia; Frank D. La Lanne, Philadelphia; F. W. Wood, Baltimore.

South Atlantic Seaboard—E. J. Hale, Fayetteville, N. C.; L. B. Dozier, Columbia, S. C.; W. B. Stilwell, Savannah.

Gulf Seaboard—T. C. Bush, Birmingham, Ala.; S. Talarferro, Houston, Tex.; M. J. Sanders, New Orleans, La.; S. W. S. Duncan, Dallas, Tex.

The entire Mississippi Valley district—Gov. J. A. Johnson, St. Paul, Minn.; Thomas M. Wilkerson, Burlington, Iowa; W. P. Kennett, St. Louis, Mo.; W. K. Kavanaugh, St. Louis, Mo.; Charles Scott, Rosedale, Miss.

The Great Lakes district—James H. Davidson, Oshkosh, Wis.; E. W. Wickey, South Chicago, Ind.; H. C. Barlow, Chicago, Ill.; and Edward H. Butler, Buffalo, N. Y.

Ohio Valley district—W. B. Rodgers, Pittsburg, Pa.; Albert Bettinger, Cincinnati, Ohio; John L. Vance, Columbus, Ohio, and W. H. Keller, Evansville, Ind.

Tennessee and Cumberland district—T. M. Bryan, Nashville, Tenn.

Arkansas Valley district—John A. Fox, Arkansas.

Missouri Valley district—Lawrence M. Jones, Kansas City, Mo., and George C. Call, Sioux City, Iowa.

Pacific Coast district—N. G. Blalock, Walla Walla, Wash.; A. H. Devers, Portland, Ore., and George C. Pardee, Oakland, Cal.

CHILDREN ENOUGH FOR ALL.



ANOTHER woman of prominence has come out in opposition to Mr. Roosevelt's anti-race suicide policy. Mrs. J. H. Crossman of the Womans Peace Circle of New York is the latest candidate for the presidential Valhalla to which are condemned all those who incur the President's disapprobation. This is part of what Mrs. Crossman said in open meeting a few days ago: "It is not charity we want. Too much is being done now for the poor of New York City. What we need is the suppression of unnecessary reproduction. When parents cannot support their children it is a crime to bring them into the world," says the Kansas City Journal.

The resentment of the women against the president's interference in their private affairs seems to be gathering strength. One by one the prominent women of the land are asserting themselves. They feel that their sacred province has been invaded and they know more about their domestic affairs than any mere man, be he president or what not. Last October Miss Phoebe Cousins, the veteran leader of the equal suffragists movement, said: "The president has gone too far in condemning married people whose families do not come up to his standard and in applying such a term as 'criminal' to wives who do not desire so many children as he thinks they should have."

At this season of the year one is reminded on every side of the many homeless children who are dependent on charity for a brightening of the Christmas holidays. The one note of sadness in all this period of good cheer is the thought of the little ones in public institutions, sectarian homes and the cheerless tenements who know Santa Claus only as a myth and whose woeful little stockings will droop in melancholy invitation to public charity. How many mothers, in shabby homes, through tears that blind their smarting eyes will gaze upon their suffering children and pray that in some mysterious way Santa Claus may find them out and bless them with remembrance.

There is no more pathetic sight than an assemblage of orphans, boys or girls, at Christmas time, who sit in rigid discipline while the gifts of a cold and terrifying charity

are doled out to them. Where is the love which glorifies the gifts, and where is that element of personal interest and those breasts upon which the little wondering heads may be pillowed in hallowed sympathy? There are enough children in this world to stock up the childless homes on Christmas day. Let the childless husbands and wives of the land take to themselves some of the neglected little ones who are thrust upon a selfish world through such reckless unwisdom as is promulgated in the "anti-race suicide" policy.

There is no such thing as a criminal class. Any statement with reference to the so-called criminal class makes the prosperous feel entirely too comfortable sitting at the club with their after-dinner cigars. It removes the feeling of responsibility from that section of society where it properly belongs, and places it on heredity and circumstances over which we have no control. In a large proportion of cases the criminal is society, and not the poor fellow who has gone wrong from lack of work, poverty and the corollaries of poverty, strangeness to the customs and language of the country, or the sudden flash of passion to all of us. Economic pressure and social maladjustment, well within the scope of our power to remedy, will explain very much of the crime and the making of very many of our criminals. And a great evil in our present social system is that it too often makes a criminal of the first offender—the citizen who has slipped over into wrongdoing once. It makes him hardened instead of dealing with him as a human being.

With the entire naval strength of the United States sent to the Pacific, the Atlantic Coast, which has never had any more imported trouble than it cared to import since 1812, will be just as able to get along without importing trouble as usual.

The Japanese who captured Port Arthur ought to prove good witnesses for the accused general who surrendered it.

Won't it be dull for the Bostonians now that they are to have an intelligent mayor once more?

SHALL THE HOME MERCHANT BE PATRONIZED?



IT is stated says The Up-To-Date Farmer that two mail order houses in the city of Chicago did a business of \$80,000,000 last year. This is another fair sample of monopoly swallowing up the business of the country. This monopoly is fostered almost entirely by members and non-members of trades unions, who buy their tools from such houses; by farmers who buy many articles that they use. Taking for granted, as a matter of argument, that perhaps at times, some small sum of money might be saved on the purchase for which the farmer or other buyer must pay before he sees the goods, can any member of any society or any in fact in the United States, afford to not patronize his local merchants?

In the building of any vast business, whether it be a tobacco trust, an oil trust, a beef trust, a railroad trust or a merchandise trust, those who assist in the building of such vast aggregations of wealth by patronizing it, will find the day when that power is turned on them, and they will lose more than they have gained.

By sending the money away from home, the persons who patronize the mail order house impoverishes the local merchant; prevents his local merchant from bringing on well-assorted stocks or large stocks of merchandise; prevents the local merchant from employing more help, which usually comes from the ranks of his patrons; prevents his local merchant from assisting worthy local enterprises, either the church, lodge, factory or political movements, that are nearly always for the benefit of his local community.

It prevents the growth of population in the community in which the patron of the mail order house lives, and in that way reduces the value of land, in which the farmer in particular is interested. The greater number of people in a community, the better the price of the land.

By patronizing the mail order houses, persons patronizing such houses one is often deprived of the privilege of buying many articles that he needs immediately that would be of great benefit to him, and whose cost could probably be saved many times over if he could be supplied at once.

By refusing and failing to buy from his local dealer, he loses the opportunity of buying goods that he actually needs.

It is a well-known fact that the mail order houses get the best of their business based on the low-priced goods, and when a low price is named, invariably, low class goods are furnished.

It is also a well-known fact that mail order houses buy second and goods of low quality. As a rule, of course, they keep some standard goods that they offer at less than legitimate profit, which blinds the mail order house customer and makes him believe that everything that the mail order house offers is good quality and low in price, which is not true.

It behooves every person, whether he be farmer, mechanic, professional man or capitalist, to buy everything that he needs from his local merchant when it is possible to do it; to do everything that he can to encourage the local trade and local manufacturers. The sympathy of your own people is a thing much to be desired and very much needed.

It is a fact, and can be proven, that many former successful merchants in communities that were prosperous previous to the advent of the mail order houses, have been bankrupted and reduced to poverty, and the people in such communities can get only the bare necessities, and have to make frequent trips to nearby towns in order to make selections that they formerly could obtain at home from their local merchants.

I appeal to all persons to patronize their local merchants, always, and to never let the small difference in price on a few articles stand in the way of patronizing the local merchant, for in the communities in which the farmer, in particular, as well as the mechanic, professional man, and capitalist reside, the value of real estate will be reduced, and in the items of butter, eggs, chickens, live stock, fruits and vegetables, the farmer will lose more by being deprived of a market for such produce close to home, for these things that probably would otherwise go to waste, than any small difference he might pay his local merchant or local manufacturer for their goods, wares or merchandise.

Is it consistent to undertake to fight the trusts with one hand, the trusts that have reduced the price of labor and farm produce to such an extent that your calling is the poorest paid in the land, and help the trusts with the other hand, because these trusts are willing to sell to you in some instances at a price slightly lower than your local merchant can sell the goods to you for and get a living profit.

Secretary Taft is breaking another world record. As he sails toward the United States he is finishing one of the shortest journeys ever made around the world. He is certainly completing the quickest girdling of the globe ever made by anybody in which so much business of importance was ever accomplished. Within about the limits of Jules Verne's imaginative race "Around the world in Eighty Days" he has been entertained by two imperial rulers, given a few weeks to starting the Filipinos in an experiment at self-government, complimented the Mikado, talked world politics with the Czar, looked over the Kremlin, and, for personal reasons, declined to be entertained while paying a short visit to the capital of the German Empire. Others have gone more quickly around the world in a race against time, but for a business trip Mr. Taft breaks the record. He could not have done it but for the railroad which now replaces the 5,000 miles of dreary post road across the southern edge of Siberia. Lightning railroad trains and record-breaking steamships are causing circumference of the earth to shrink. A great circle of the earth no longer measures in travel 24,000 miles. It seems to be nearer 1,000 miles.

The anti-Santa Claus people are having their annual outbreak. But Santa Claus doesn't mind; he will live longer than any of them.

In the Sunshine.

Do you think that this beautiful world's going wrong?

Get out in the sunshine!

Are you sighing in grief when the air's filled with song?

Get out in the Sunshine!

Just miss for a minute the thunder's rude roll,

Drown sorrow, or slip from her leaden control,

Let the light out of the Heavens flow in on your soul—

Get out in the sunshine!

Do you know that the great sun that beams from the blue

(Get out in the sunshine!)

Is the light that God dreamed of—His message to you?

Get out in the sunshine!

Get out where the daisies are nodding in white

In the meadows that dreamed of the dawn through the night;

Throw wide the soul-windows and let in the light—

Get out in the sunshine!